Lord, that I might see!

REFLECTIONS FROM FR. ROSS

There was a blind girl who hated herself just because she was blind. She hated everyone, except her loving boyfriend. He's always there for her. She said that if she could only see the world, she would marry her boyfriend.

One day, someone donated a pair of eyes to her and she could see everything, including her boyfriend. Her boyfriend asked her, "now that you can see the world, will you marry me?" The girl was shocked when she saw that her boyfriend was blind too, and refused to marry him.

Her boyfriend walked away in tears, and later wrote a letter to her saying, "Just take care of my eyes, dear." This is how the human brain changes when our status changes. Only a few remember what life was like before and who's always been there even in the most painful situations.

One of our greatest faults and sins as human beings is our failure to see the good that surrounds us and that too often we take for granted the good that others do for us. At times we can have such short memories. As long as things go our way and people do what we expect them to do, everything is okay. But God forbid someone doesn’t live up to our expectations. All the good that was done for before, is forgotten. God forbid that someone points out to us a fault or failing that we have. And, as I have said before, most times, what we don’t like in others is what we ourselves are guilty of. At times we can be so blind. We can be so blind as to how we come across to others, under the guise of being honest and truthful, when, in fact, we are just being hurtful because we are filled with anger and resentment.

Lent is that special time during which we ask God to take away the blindness that prevents us from being the people God calls us to be. Even though God knows everything about us, he never forgets who we really are and, no matter what, he his patient, kind, gentle and forgiving. God doesn’t see things only in the way that things affect him. That’s the difference between being selfless and selfish. Sometimes, when life treats us badly and seems unfair, we tend to see ourselves more and more as the center of the universe. We can become less understanding and tolerant of others. We forget to look in the mirror and see what’s really there.

Here’s little reflection that might be helpful for all of us while we are on our Lenten journey. It’s entitled, Life is a gift:

Before you think of saying an unkind word, think of someone who can't speak.
Before you complain about the taste of your food, think of someone who has nothing to eat.
Before you complain about your husband, wife or a friend, think of someone who's crying out to God for a companion.
Today before you complain about life, think of someone who went too early to heaven.
Before you complain about your children, think of someone who desires children but they're barren.
Before you argue about your dirty house, someone didn't clean or sweep, think of the people who are living in the streets.
Before whining about the distance you drive, think of someone who walks the same distance with their feet.
And when you are tired and complain about your job, think of the unemployed, the disabled and those who wished they had your job.
But before you think of pointing the finger or condemning another, remember that not one of us is without sin and we all answer to God, our loving father.
And when depressing thoughts seem to get you down, try to put a smile on your face and thank God that you and your loved ones are alive and still around.
Life is a gift! Live it! Enjoy it! Celebrate it, And fulfill it!

Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass; it's about learning to dance in the rain.

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